

## ■ Federal Government Program Participation and Direct Payments

More than half of the farms specializing in crops were enrolled in Government programs in 1995, and they accounted for three-quarters of the direct Government payments received by farmers. Cash grain farms, including corn and wheat farms, had the highest participation rates.

About 20 percent of farms specializing in livestock received direct Government payments during 1995; dairy farms had the highest participation rate among livestock farms (43 percent). Many farmers growing program-eligible crops fed the grain to their livestock.

Direct Government payments were higher for crop farms, on average, than for livestock farms. The U.S. average direct payment to all participating farms was \$8,207, but ranged from a low of \$3,895 for poultry farms to \$11,938 for corn farms.